passengers of reserved compartments at the hands of unauthorised passengers and railway employees who occupy reserved seats in connivance with the conductors;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take by providing armed police to prevent unauthorised persons from entering into such compartments; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Some cases have come to notice.

(b) and (c) Surprise checks and drives are conducted from time to time with the help of GRP and unauthorised passengers found trvelling in reserved coaches are detrained and fined under the provisions of the Railways Act. Wherever the problem of unauthorised entry of passengers in reserved coaches is acute, co-ordination is established with GRP to enlist their assistance to prevent the same.

Stagnation in the cadre of Junior Engineers in C.P.W.D.

450. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to remove stagnation in the cadre of Junior Engineers, in C.P.W.D.; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) In order to remove stagnation in the cadre of Junior Engineers in the C.P.W.D. a second Cadre Review has been undertaken.

Manual handling of night soil

451. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to eradicate manual handling of night soil;

(b) the amount spent for the last three years for this purpose;

(c) what are the achievements; and

(d) the number of scavengers relieved from this practice, Statewise ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As part of the Action Plan announced by the Government, the Govt. of India has launched an Integrated Scheme of Low Cost Sanitation and the Liberation of Scavengers.

(b) The amounts spent for the last three years under ongoing schemes, are as follows:—

(i) Loan assistance sanctioned by HUDCO for low cost sanitation schemes to State schemes to State agencies:

1987-88 . .	Rs. 10·75 crores
1988-89 . .	Rs. 8·39 crores
1989-90 . . (upto February, 1990)	Rs. 19·78 crores

(ii) Central assistance to State Governments from the Ministry of Welfare for the liberation of scavengers:

1987-88 . .	Rs. 8·89 crores
1988-89 . .	Rs. 9·45 crores
1989-90 . . (Allocation)	Rs. 10·00 crores

(c) The achievements upto March, 1989 are as follows:—

About 8.94 lakh pour flush latrines have been provided. 32 towns have been made scavenging free and about 10,000 scavengers have been liberated.

(d) As reported by State Governments, the number of scavengers relieved from this practice State-wise is given in the statement enclosed. (*See* below)

Statement

State-wise details of number of scavengers relieved from manual handling of night soil

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of scavengers relieved
1.	Assam	97
2.	Andhra Pradesh	879
3.	Bihar	4235
4.	Haryana	197
5.	Himachal Pradesh	236
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	263
7.	Karnataka	Not available
8.	Kerala	347
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1684
10.	Maharashtra	235
11.	Orissa	105
12.	Rajasthan	511
13.	Tamil Nadu	45
14.	Tripura	Not available
15.	Uttar Pradesh	700
16.	West Bengal	548
17.	Punjab	173
18.	Manipur	Not ava ilable
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	Not available

Increase in the prices of essential commodities

452. DR. YELAMANCHIL SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to arrest the rise in prices of essential commodities during the last three months; and

(b) what has been the impact of Government's efforts in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) The Government has taken both short-term and long term steps to arrest and contain rise in prices of essential commodities. The behaviour of prices of essential commodities is being reviewed at the highest level. Government of India in the Department of Civil Supplies is monitoring an collecting information on the prices and availability of selected essential commodities every week from selected centres of various States/ Union Territories.

The measures taken to arrest the price rise broadly include steps to increase the production of essential commodities which are in short supply; strengthening of Public Distribution System; strict enforcement of the provisions of Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; regulation of exports of essential commodities and, if necessary, augmenting domestic supplies through imports to check any abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities through demand and supply gap. Periodical meetings have also been held with the representatives of trade and industry to increase the production and availability of essential commodities and check any abnormal rise in their prices.